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Letter No. 2347

January 28, 1988

**USSR AG RESULTS
FOR 1987**

The USSR announced its agriculture results for last year in the 1987 plan fulfillment report that was published in the Soviet central press on January 24, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 1988 plan calls for 235 million metric tons of grain, including corn, rice, millet and buckwheat. The actual 1987 results were over 211 million metric tons of grain. In 1986, the total grain was 210 million metric tons. The report also noted that in 1987, total grain yields averaged 1.83 tons per hectare. That is the second highest on record. The report also stated that in preparation for the 1988 harvest, winter crops seeded under the system of intensive technology totaled over 17 million hectares, which was below plan.

**1988 FARM PROGRAM
PROVISIONS**

On January 21, Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the 1988 farm program provisions, including the provision that wheat, feed grains and upland cotton producers may request advance deficiency payments at sign-up. The advance payments will be equal to 40 percent of the estimated commodity deficiency payment rate. One-half of this amount will be paid in cash at sign-up and the balance will be paid in generic commodity certificates on or about May 16. The estimated payment rates are: Wheat, \$1.53 a bushel; corn, \$1.10; sorghum, \$1.08; barley, 76 cents; oats, 30 cents; and upland cotton, 16 cents.

**MORE HIGH-VALUE
PRODUCTS TO
JAPAN**

Japan is the best market prospect for U.S. agricultural exports. It's the world's top net importer of agricultural products, and has been the largest U.S. customer since 1964. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Japanese imports of high-value products are expected to grow substantially, due to strong income growth and the stronger yen. Products that should do well include nuts, broilers, egg products, canned peaches, confectionery products, and fresh and frozen vegetables.

**CANADA & U.S.
EXPORTS**

Canada is expected to retain its star status into the 1990's for U.S. agricultural exporters, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. export prospects are expected to be brightest for vegetables, fruits, nuts, grocery and fast-food items and cotton. The U.S. accounts for over 90 percent of Canada's imports of soybeans, cotton, live animals, lettuce, poultry and eggs, animal feeds, corn, potatoes and products. Fruits and vegetables comprise the largest category of U.S. exports to Canada, accounting for 40 percent of Canadian agricultural imports from the U.S.

U.S. & USSR
EXCHANGE TEAMS

The United States and the USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in Agriculture signed a protocol today after two days of talks to carry out exchanges of agricultural and economic teams in 1988-89. The U.S. teams will study the following economic subjects: Recent developments in the Soviet feed and livestock economy, economic and technological aspects of winter grain and spring wheat production and use, and oilseed production. The Soviet economic teams will be involved in studies on the economic problems of managing research, agricultural econometric modeling, and a joint seminar on economic linkages between agricultural inputs suppliers, and marketing enterprises.

CATTLE ON FEED
UP 6% IN
13 STATES

Cattle and calves on feed on January 1, 1988, for slaughter market in the 13 main livestock states totaled 9 million 770 thousand head, up 6 percent from January 1, 1987, but virtually unchanged from January 1, 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 13 states reporting are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, S. Dakota, Texas and Washington.

NATIONAL AG DAY,
MARCH 20

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng will serve as honorary chairman for National Agricultural Day, March 20, 1988. Agriculture Day is set aside each year to salute the role of agriculture in the national economy. Lyng said, "Agriculture's contribution to American life, both through the jobs it provides and through production of the highest quality and most abundant food and fiber supply in history, makes it the cornerstone of the nation."

DECEMBER RED MEAT
PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in December 1987 totaled 3 billion 380 million pounds, up 4 percent from December 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Of this total, beef production was 1 billion 930 million pounds...veal, 36 million...pork, 1 billion 390 million...lamb and mutton production, 27 million pounds.

GENERIC
CERTIFICATES
ONLY

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that upland cotton and rice deficiency payments due in February and five-month 1987 corn and sorghum deficiency payments due in March, will be paid only in generic commodity certificates.

1987/88
FERTILIZER
CONSUMPTION

U.S. fertilizer consumption during 1987/88 is projected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to remain close to year-earlier levels, following a 2-percent decline in 1985/86. Nitrogen is projected at 10 million 400 thousand tons; phosphate, 3 million 900 thousand tons; and potash, 4 million 800 thousand tons. While domestic fertilizer demand remains stable, U.S. production of nitrogen and phosphate will rise as a result of increased export demand induced by the lower dollar.

CCC MILK
SUPPORT
PROGRAMS
FOR 1987

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's net purchases under the CCC Milk Support Program in 1987 were equivalent to 6 billion 700 million pounds of milk, compared with 10 billion 600 million pounds in 1986. The 1987 net purchases of dairy products totaled 282 million 300 thousand pounds of cheese, 187 million 300 thousand pounds of butter, and 559 million 400 thousand pounds of nonfat dry milk.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS HANDBOOK The U.S. Department of Agriculture has published a handbook of recommendations to maintain the quality of fruits and vegetables, live plants and cut flowers from tropical and subtropical climates during transportation. This handbook should help growers, shippers, carriers and receivers. For a free copy, contact the Export Service Branch, Office of Transportation, USDA, 1405 Auditors Bldg., Wash., D.C. 20250. Or call: 202-653-6317. A Spanish version of the handbook will be available in May.

RICE ACREAGE REDUCTION Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced an acreage reduction for the 1988 rice program of 25 percent.

BLACK AMERICANS MONTH February is Black Americans Month, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has chosen as its theme, "The State of Black Americans and the Department of Agriculture." The USDA, in events scheduled throughout the month, will focus on employment and program-related events that will have meaningful and lasting impact on the USDA family. These events include research task groups, training seminars, exhibits and a career and program information day.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE AGRICULTURE USA #1599...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Whether you live in the city, the suburbs, or on a farm, if you are going through a divorce the economic impact will be felt. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Brenda Curtis talks to Utah State University Extension home economist Dr. Barbara Rowe about the economic problems couples need to be aware of when contemplating divorce.

AGRITEPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1588...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; 1988 target prices and loan rates; Paid diversions and deficiency payments; U.S. Soviet Technology exchange; Reclaiming Georgia soil; Hightech haymaker.

CONSUMER TIME #1080...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Kerosene heater hazards; Breaking the cycle of abuse; A new potato chip; Speciality produce; Do you know where your money goes?

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Feb. 2, Weekly weather and crop report; Wed, Feb. 3, Dairy products report; Tues, Feb. 9, Crop and weather outlook; U.S. crop production report; Soviet crop situation; World ag. supply and demand. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays....A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X
 ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 9X
 UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D
 REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET....Transponder 12D
 UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Friday 11:00 a.m. ET.

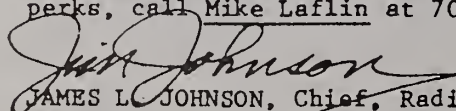
OFF MIKE

A few newsletters back we asked you to let us know if you were receiving the newsletter late. Since then several of you have, and we thank you. Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Mktng, Herndon, VA), for instance, called to report receiving two newsletters in one envelope (the letters are supposed to be self-mailers). One was dated Dec. 10 and the other Dec. 17. They were mailed January 13, and he received them two days later. Ironically (at least to us) one of the letters was the one in which we said we were working on improving the delivery time of the letters. Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka) also received two in one envelope, and the envelope contained three separate post marks and meter mail charges. We still haven't figured that one out. Distance doesn't seem to make any difference one way or the other. We received a call from Gary Stewart (Northwest Ag News Net, Seattle, WA) and he reported he'd received the Jan. 14 letter on Jan. 25. So keep your fingers crossed. We're going to try to improve the situation...again ... Harry Martin (Rural Radio Network, New Palestine, IN) reports he and wife Marian are traveling in Brazil and Argentina with the

Farm Broadcasters Letter
Radio and Television, Rm. 410A
Office of Information, OGPA
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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ASA Soybean Study Mission. The mission ends Feb. 8, and Harry will be sending reports back to his network during the two week venture ... Speaking of overseas travel, the Institute of International Research is looking for a Chief of Party for a radio project in Liberia. The project began in 1982 and ends March 31, 1989. It involves three local radio stations broadcasting in local languages and covering most of the country. Candidates must know radio inside and out, know how it can be applied, and know how to work with others in applying radio. The stations broadcast development information, local news and entertainment. The project to date has been very successful and the new Chief of Party will be responsible for completing it and the contract under which it has been funded. For salary and all the perks, call Mike Laflin at 703-893-5366.


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division